

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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The Weak Economy Concerns Everyone

by
Pat Killian
Features Editor

In the nation's current economic straits, Montgomery Bell Academy has not remained financially unscathed. Downward trends in the stock market have taken a toll on the school's endowment and threaten the accountability of its primary source of income—tuition.

Due to losses in the stock market, MBA's \$60 million endowment has suffered a 25 percent decrease. A percentage of the endowment's assets goes towards the school's annual operating budget. The endowment's losses have thus caused a decrease of around \$400,000 in the budget. Furthermore, the school plans its budgets around a predicted increase in the endowment's assets, an increase that will not come this year.

Economic downturns indirectly threaten the school's tuition-based income. As families deal with the times, the school

faces the possibility of an increase in requests for financial aid and a decrease in full tuition payments. The extent of such losses will not be known until the tuition is finalized and financial aid requests are received in the late spring.

The financial blow will be softened, however, thanks to cautious budgeting practices. For the past several years, the school has put a portion of its budget towards a "rainy day" surplus, into which it can now freely dip to cover most of the recent losses.

An economically-minded administration has also helped to curb spending. "For instance," explained Headmaster Brad Gioia, "we've tried to fill empty positions around campus with the existing faculty instead of hiring new people."

The Board of Trustees has also taken steps to ensure low tuition increases and to

keep the school affordable. In the past two years, the Board managed two of its smallest increases ever. MBA's tuition, once the highest in the state, dropped three or four places. "Nationally, tuitions are going to increase 10 to 12 percent in the next year," said Mr. Gioia. "We're aiming to be below that average."

As of yet, the economy has not deterred students. Admissions applications are coming in smoothly, and the pool of applicants reflects no widespread strain. Also, no current student has yet decided to leave the school for financial reasons. (Of course, tuition notices have not been sent out yet, either.)

Annual giving has remained similarly healthy.

The effects of financial losses will be most visible in the school's construction plans. Though the plans have not been final-

ized, Mr. Gioia predicts the school will err on the side of caution. Attempting too many projects too quickly would not only place added strain on the budget but also open the door for criticism from the community.

"We want to be defensive and guard against the threat [of injury to public relations]" said Mr. Gioia.

The earliest plans will probably only include projects beneficial to both the school and community, such as expanded on-campus parking, an improved Wilson Road entrance, and a defined boundary between Brighton and Kimpalong. Major academic buildings and other expensive projects will probably be designated low priorities for the near future.

A timeline for new construction will be announced in April.

MBA's Chinese Exchange Program Is Underway

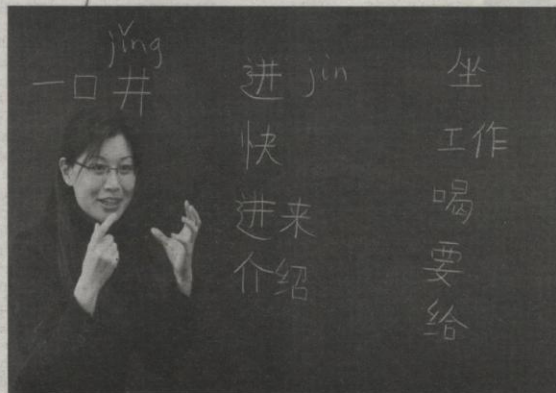
by
Daniel Green
Staff Writer

This past year Mr. Gioia and others have been working assiduously with our fellow British exchange schools and Chinese schools to set up an exchange program with schools in China.

There are in China three schools, in an Expat Exchange program established by the British, with which we are seeking an exchange. These schools partner with the nearby and often adjacent Chinese-run schools. Mr. Gioia hopes to form an exchange program with the Expat schools.

In this exchange, some of our students would be sent to live at the British-run schools and would then take classes at the Chinese schools. Our students would be completely immersed in Chinese culture and society while on exchange, offering them a unique opportunity to experience Chinese life fully. The exchange would last four to six weeks and would take place during the summer.

Mr. Gioia has also worked on three other parts to the exchange. First, a summer college tour would be established to bring Chinese students to America to let them see many different colleges here. Second,



Ms. Li teaches Chinese characters in class.

(Courtesy of JOHN PARTIPILO / THE TENNESSEAN)

Expat would help to establish a camp in which Chinese students would be taught about American society, culture, and colleges, and, in addition, MBA would have the opportunity to send faculty or alumni to this camp to teach. Finally, there will be a full-year course in the Chinese schools to prepare them for attending American universities. The students in this course are some of the best and most brilliant in the world and would learn about the American system and experience.

The exchange program is not yet totally finalized, but Mr. Gioia hopes to be able to send students to China next summer. The summer trip to these schools in China will become a regular part of the Foreign Exchange program of MBA, just like our exchanges to England, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. The costs for the exchange will, as planned, be zero for the student and will be instead folded into the general fund for the exchange program. We all look forward to expanding MBA's outreach around the world and to the incredible experience that this exchange will bring.



THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.



The Corruption of the American Dream

"I would just like to reiterate my concern that I have to walk halfway around the stadium to get a 24-ounce can of beer."

This quotation, declared by an obese man to guest services at a recent Nashville Predators game, epitomizes how we Americans have developed a deluded sense of self-importance, stemming from our (recent) tradition of global—both economic and political—greatness.

Allow me to dissect a few of the ways in which this fan is utterly out of his mind:

1. He uses the word, "concern," to describe what might be referred to as a minor inconvenience, at worst.

2. He complains about having to walk too far to buy a beer, when he walked the exact same distance to lodge his complaint with guest services. How many

times does he need to buy beer during a game anyway?

3. While there are numerous beer vendors in the stadium, his insatiable appetite requires that he drink at least 24-ounces of beer at a time from a single aluminum container.

I concede that this man has the right to voice his opinion to a guest services representative because he has paid an arguably egregious amount of money to watch the hockey game. However, there are many and greater problems in the world now.

Take as examples: the genocide in Darfur, the terrorist activity in Mumbai, the global economic downturn, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These events could all be aptly described as *crises*.

It seems, unfortunately, that many Americans continue to ignore these issues, despite the global significance of these events. Instead, we prefer to shut them out of our minds

with the hope that they will resolve themselves or that our government leaders will take care of these problems.

While the concerns of most people in the "First-World" have become more international in scope with the new millennium, the worries of most Americans have become more parochial. This isolationist attitude is detrimental to our society because it leads inevitably to a stagnation of ideas and even of progress itself in the interdependent world in which we live.

The foundations for continued greatness have been laid in the great nation of America, but it takes each person to be a little more selfless, to be a little more sympathetic, and to be a little more active in stopping the problems that have the potential to destroy our society if they continue to remain disregarded as "other people's problems."

Any responses to this editorial are welcomed and should be sent directly to the editor.

New President Offers Ideas For Science

by
Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

When Barack Obama, the first president-elect with a Facebook, MySpace, Twitter account, and YouTube channel, was inaugurated on January 20, many Americans believed that a new era of technological and scientific breakthroughs would be coming for the United States. Obama not only plans to appoint a "Chief Technology Officer" for the nation but has also promised to reverse the policies of the last administration, which have stifled America's scientific development. He was quick to name a science and technology team full of the most distinguished scientists of the modern era, including Eric Lander of the Human Genome Project. Obama even appointed Steven Chu, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, as energy secretary.

Despite a promising list of changes, it may be many years before Obama's administration has time even to consider the nation's falling status as a scientific power, due to the crises currently at hand. Although Obama has promised to initiate a program which would double the federal investment in science research over the next ten years, he must first focus on the dire economic situation and the ongoing wars in the Middle East, two issues which have been contributing to

the low levels of federal funding for science and technology. However, as part of his American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan to stimulate the economy, Obama has promised to modernize federal buildings, invest in alternative energy, and computerize the nation's medical records within five years.

If Obama does get around to implementing all of his science plans, he will almost certainly lift former President Bush's restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. Bush's restrictions have damaged American research while Asian and European scientists are experiencing incredible breakthroughs. The restrictions force researchers to work with federally funded cell lines in different labs and with different personnel from privately funded lines.

On his fourth day in office, Obama reversed the "Mexico City policy" (introduced by President Reagan), which prohibits international family-planning groups like Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funding if they discuss abortion. Both Bush and Reagan cited ethical reasons for their policies, but the latest polls show that a majority of Americans favor not only allowing but increasing funding for stem cell research. A much smaller plurality of Americans would consider themselves "pro-choice" and support reversing the Mexico City policy.

In addition to lifting medical research and awareness restrictions, Obama plans to lift the federal ban which prohibited the state of California from regulating greenhouse gas emissions in vehicles and to actively promote the reduction of emissions from cars and factories. Obama hopes to create millions of jobs through installing solar panels, wind turbines, and updating America's outmoded highway transportation system. Obama, inspired by the New Deal of President Roosevelt in the 1930s, hopes to better America while creating millions of jobs.

The new President also wants to ensure that Americans will not lag behind scientifically in the future. Obama wants to create 40,000 scholarships for science teachers and to invest \$500 million to ensure that all schools have fully integrated technology. The new administration hopes that one day all schools can have science department facilities as advanced as the one we have in the Ingram Building.

If implemented, the new administration's proposals certainly will have lasting effects on the state of American scientific progress. They may also prove to be incredibly divisive due to longstanding debates on medical research and global climate change. The next four years will be crucial in determining the fate of American scientific research and advancement.

Israeli Acts Are Justified

By
Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Writer

Although the words for peace in Hebrew and Arabic are so similar (*shalom* and *salaam*, respectively), achieving peace has been an unattainable goal for these two conflicting groups for centuries, particularly so since Israel became a state in 1948.

As sporadic wars and conflicts over the years have been constant, the 2008 conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip represents an evolving chapter in Israeli warfare fighting against organizations, not just states. This conflict has threatened Middle Eastern stability and the U.S.'s fight in the "war on terror."

Although a ceasefire was signed on January 18th, there is a very high chance of continued conflict in the near- and long-term future. I advocate that the United States should support Israel because of Israel's military and civil responsibility.

First, Hamas blatantly violates international law by using civilians as human shields, while Israel defends its citizens. Israel builds military bases as far away from civilian areas as possible. Israel's mayors and its federal government build shelters and implement a warning system for themselves and for civilians in Gaza. Israel takes every precaution to limit civilian death, resulting in single-digit civilian deaths after weeks of fighting.

Contrastingly, Hamas tries to maximize civilian danger of its own citizens to cause PR nightmares for Israel. Hamas builds military bases in mosques, schools, hospitals, and civilian homes. Israel gives a one-hour warning to civilians inside these buildings, but Hamas in some cases puts more civilians in these buildings as human shields—causing Israel to either not attack or face the international backlash of massive civilian casualties. Hamas purposely tries to put as many women and children in buildings where they have military weapons so that even as Israel bombs only military structures, the deaths of women and children have climbed to the hundreds. The United States should never support an organization bent on maximal destruction of human life.

Second, the motivations behind the conflict prove that Israel's response was proportionate and responsible. Since 2007, Hamas has released over 4000 rockets into Israel, stopping only after a ceasefire six months ago. Hamas started firing rockets again in December, and despite Israel warning them a week in advance that Israel would attack if the rockets did not stop, Hamas continued to barrage the Israeli border with rockets. National security and self-defense motivated Israel in its air strikes and subsequent invasion of Gaza. The United Nations allows for any nation to engage actively in its own self-defense against armed attacks.

Hamas' motivations were significantly less warranted. Certainly there was some antagonism towards Israel after Israel's economic sanctions and blockades; however, Hamas squandered aid that the United Nations gave it to help the citizens

of Gaza. Additionally, Israel increased these sanctions *because* of Hamas' continued attacks. Hamas remains committed to the destruction of Israel and to the most civilian damage possible. This terrorist organization gloats so much in the killing of innocent Israelis that they started signing their rockets. The United States should never involve itself in contributing to this organization.

Finally, Israel has earned the respect, alliance, and legitimacy of the United States, while Hamas has not. Israel has been consistently America's staunchest ally in the Middle East. In contrast, Hamas, which is recognized by the US and EU as a terrorist organization, has the full backing of Iran, one of the United States' most hated enemies.

Hamas is working with and unifying other terrorist organizations, like Hezbollah in Lebanon, and reversing much of the progress towards democratization and modernization within the Palestinian Authority (PA), the governing body of the Palestinians. Israel and the US have continued to support the much more moderate Palestinian group, Fatah. Even though Hamas might have won the PA's elections in 2006, they have proven to be detrimental to Middle Eastern peace.

Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz writes that, "Until the world recognizes that Hamas is committing three war crimes—targeting Israeli civilians, using Palestinian civilians as human shields, and seeking the destruction of a member state of the United Nations—and that Israel is acting in self-defense and out of military necessity, the conflict will continue." The United States must act on these realities by defending Israel's right to self-defense.

Israel Not Without Blame In Conflicts

by
Chunbum Park
Staff Writer

Lately the American public opinion has gone astray regarding several key issues. For example, Americans initially supported the war in Iraq and Afghanistan; Americans left open the question of legality regarding the detaining and torturing of people of Middle Eastern descent in Gitmo; and Americans believed or didn't believe in the causes of climate change; Americans kept a divided silence regarding the Israeli incursion into the Gaza strip, though the US Senate and the House of Representatives both approved the Israeli assault early in January. These were all instances that starkly contrasted with the unanimous consensus of the international community.

The war in Gaza is an issue that should neither be simplified along the lines of the Jewish state's right to self-defense nor complicated by the backdrop of the 60-year Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is also a mistake to draw parallels between the conflicts in Gaza and Iraq, because there are no major strategic targets in Gaza, no army to fight, and no people to liberate.

Israel's deployment of battle tanks, fighter planes, and infantry into a densely populated urban area is pure madness, akin to the Belgian warship's blind bombardment of the African jungles in the *Heart of Darkness*. The manner in which Israel conducted its military operation has drawn sharp international criticisms. The "legitimate targets" destroyed by the Israeli airstrikes included not only a few underground tunnels and militant compounds, but also homes, mosques, UN schools, children's hospitals, police academy, television station, the Islamic University, the Parliament House, and the High Court of

Justice.

According to the Palestinian medical sources (the same group that reported that the 375 Palestinians killed by the end of December were mostly Hamas militants), more than 1,200 Palestinians have been killed (4,000 are wounded), and a third of them are children.

The Israeli military justifies its killings by arguing that it warns inhabitants of the area that is about to be bombed and that they should flee ahead of time, but this just further highlights the bizarreness of the entire operation. In truth, as CNN reported, the Gazans are trapped due to the Israeli blockade, and, without food, water, and shelter, they simply cannot leave their homes.

Israel's blockade and unrestricted warfare on Gaza are direct violations of international law, which prohibits collective punishment and disproportionate military force. "The blockade... in which the... [UN] was... complicit... was directly responsible for the widespread humanitarian crisis in Gaza, even before the current Israeli assault had begun," said the UN General Assembly President. Furthermore, Israel included even the UN in the blockade and prevented food supplies from reaching the Gazans.

It is false to portray the criticisms on Israel as unrealistic and to dismiss the civilian suffering as an inevitable consequence of war. Although the militants have intermingled with the populace, it is the Israeli military that makes the final decision on whether to deploy their modern arsenals against the Gazans.

Israel is not at war with another sovereign state; between the Gazans and the Israelis the latter uniquely have the option to keep the violence in the region to a minimum. Would the US military subject Mexican towns and cities to aerial bombardment and artillery shelling, if terrorists fired rockets across the southern border? Most Gazans before the war had been critical of Hamas for the attacks on Israel, and Hamas was brought to power by popular vote only because "...long-dominant rival Fatah... was tainted by corruption and failure ... [but] Hamas... was highly regarded for charity work... probity and piety." (Reuters) "...1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006 and now 2009—each seared by blood and fire into the conflicting myths and memories of the two sides." (The Economist)

It is uncertain if the Israeli military was able to neutralize Hamas successfully during the 3-week war, but, according to Mr. Gaylard, the UN's deputy special coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, "...the long-term goal of resolving the 60-year Israeli-Palestinian conflict... had been dealt a severe setback."



Another dead Palestinian girl is carried away because of the conflict.

A Modest Proposal For Our Nation's Educational System

by
Steven Gaittens
Staff Swiftian

The number of people in our wonderful country affected by the miserable state of depression is phenomenal. The prime cause of this ailment arises from a poor self image and an inherent view of oneself as a failure in society. Public schools and teachers in our time have been working hard to instill a sense of importance within each child in elementary school. From the elimination of competitive sports such as basketball, soccer, and football during recess to the placement of all students on the same reading level no matter their capabilities, these heroic teachers have been battling some of the causes of depression.

I recall one such progressive teacher who meted out copious amounts of candy to my classmates for such achievements as attempting to answer questions correctly in class and walking down the hall to microwave her popcorn. Although physical education classes have been increasingly amiable and non-competitive, the gym teachers still let the occasional inflatable beach ball or bowling game slip through the system. In order to decrease rates of depression and create a happier, more content country as a whole, it is necessary that we create more equality within our schools.

The first step in the process of creating complete uniformity of skill levels at school is, of course, to eliminate all private and magnet schools. We must also abolish all forms of competition or activity in school and athletics. Such abominations as recreational sports leagues and school teams only help to extend the gap of perceived inequality in the ability levels of the children who participate in them. To set a good example for our young athletes, the NBA, MLB, NFL, and other similar sports leagues should not hire "professional athletes," but should instead pay a random selection of average people to participate on their teams.

A major problem we face in making every child equal and, therefore, satisfied with his/her ability is that there are some children who are naturally smarter than the rest. While one child is forced to work endless hours to achieve an A average in a class, there are others who will simply breeze through and earn an A with their natural talent, therefore making the harder working child feel inferior. To eliminate this system of inequality, we should take the naturally talented students out of school for weeks or even months at a time so they

will fall behind in their classes and remain on the same level as the others. We could also implement systems of drugging these smarter students' lunches to delay their thought processes and slow their response times. Once the more capable students are on the same level as the less capable ones, the third step of the process will begin.

This third and most important step of this balancing procedure is to reward every child with money and trophies for his work. Due to the drugging explained in step number two, each student will have exactly the same grades. Each student will be rewarded on a daily basis for his average work in order to make him have a sense of achievement and importance. This rewarding will continue on when they are given random jobs later on as adults, and it will create a happy populace and, therefore, defeat depression altogether.

Not only will this produce a joyful populace, but the people will also be much easier to govern and control. Each person will be delighted with any type of life he/she is leading and will never feel the need to question the government in place. No one could possibly argue with a cheerful, complacent country with no war, conflict, or competition whatsoever. Do not even mention other possible public educational systems: one that promotes competition and rewards hard work and academic achievements; one that advances hard working students to enable them to learn more; one that challenges students to reach to their highest potential; and most of all, one that prepares students for the competitive, productive society that they will face in their adult lives. The pathway to cheerfulness is before us, and it begins with the rectification of the current competition crisis in our public elementary schools.

Is satire really an effective method of social debate?

The Bell Ringer wants you to judge.

A Modest Proposal: Destroy The Different To Delight The Devout

by
Matthew Moynihan
Staff Swiftian

Recently, atheists have reached a point of great frustration. Fearing the bad reputation that their hideous rejection of God has brought upon them, atheist groups have renamed themselves Humanists in an attempt to disguise their true nature, but they did not succeed. The disgrace that has been heaped upon these heathens is a great achievement for the True Believers, but it is only the beginning. All other infidels must be punished for renouncing the one True God. These barbarians must be exposed, humiliated, and eliminated.

As in the days of religious governance, a Crusade against heretics must be initiated. The absolute reign of true believers must be instated and upheld. In a world created and populated by God, it is only natural that the leaders in this world be believers in the True God and rule by His laws. In today's secular governments, leaders abide by their opinion of the greater good, not by God's greater good, and even in non-secular governments, the leaders worship false gods and practice sacrilegious rituals.

Knowingly or unknowingly, heretics are destroying the foundation of the world. Their failing leadership and false beliefs have earned them rejection by God. They will lie to you of economic and environmental problems harming our world, but

it is they who are destroying us, they are the ones laying the world flat, bringing our roofs to the ground. The only way to salvage our broken world is to reject our current leaders, install God's law, and require universal acceptance of the one true way.

Crusading riots and uprisings will be the most effective way of bringing about

this change. In God's name, I encourage amassing crowds of believers armed with fire and the word of God. Spontaneous rebellions and annihilation of government and civic buildings and institutions should occur regularly. We must bring down the corrupt world around us before it brings us down.

Execution of civic and government heretics will be rewarded, and each head brought to the True Believers' administration will result in a pecuniary prize and a record of achievement. Leaders of riots and burners of holy crosses will be rewarded with similar marks of merit, and those who have the most evidence of destruction of unholy establishments and elimination of infidel leaders and supporters alike will be granted positions in the New Rule of God.

This proposal is the only way we can save our nation and our souls. Let no one convince you that tolerance is the answer to our problems. Let no one tell you that acceptance of differences and respect of different cultures, religions, and worship is a better way. Let no one persuade you that non-violence and brotherhood is constructive in any form. Ignore suggestions of diplomatic means, reject open-mindedness, and embrace the one and only true path through earthly life and into the blissful afterlife. Anyone who believes differently, disagrees in even the smallest degree, or resists any part of our rule will be eliminated and fall straight to eternal punishment and damnation. Soon we, the True Believers (you know who you are) will rise to power through destruction and bring the whole world under the rule of the one True God.



Jonathan Swift and Dr. Kinch approve of these messages.

New Clubs Arise at MBA

by
Bill Shofner
Staff Writer

The Shotgun Club, led by Spanish teacher Senor Gray, is one of the many new clubs that have been started on the MBA campus this year. This club was started by Mr. Gray due to the increased interest in the MBA community about the sport. The main activities of the club will be to learn about shooting a shotgun, to have fun, and to enter a few tournaments.

The club is currently planning to have, in the spring, coaching sessions from tournament shooters. There are also serious plans to compete in some tournaments in the late spring.

The club has already generated an enthusiastic response in the MBA community. Many students have joined the club and look forward to participating in it. The club has not only generated an enthusiastic response from students, but also from members of the faculty and alumni who are supporting it. The club looks forward to a great future and to building on the great tradition of shooting sports at MBA.

The Arabic Studies Club, with faculty leaders Colonel Sharbel, Dr. Dickens, and Mrs. Mattison, and club president Sully Mehio, is another of the new clubs that have appeared at MBA this year.

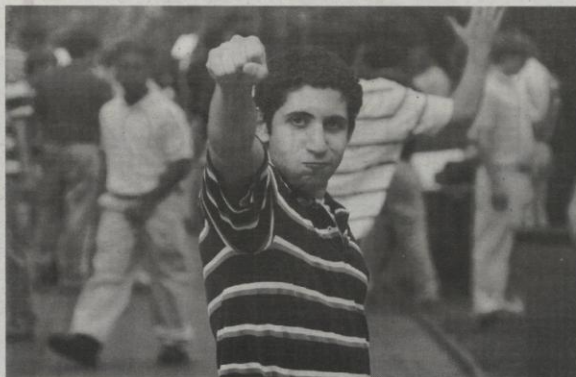
This club was founded to study and to increase the appreciation of the Arabic culture. With large Arabic and Kurdish communities in Nashville and with quite a few MBA students of Middle Eastern lineage, the founders of the club perceived a need and a niche.

The hope of the club is to deepen the understanding of the Arabic culture, Islamic religion, and the Middle East. So far there has been Middle Eastern food served at the meetings, and members have eaten at Arabic restaurants. There are to be some Arabic-related service projects, as well as much discussion on the Arabic culture in the future. The Arabic Studies Club looks to fill a significant void at MBA.

These and other new clubs have created additional opportunities for students to express their interests and have brought excitement to the campus.



Senor Gray is happy about the start of the Shotgun Club.



Sully Mehio is always excited.

History Department Considers New Electives

by
Alex Hagar
Staff Writer

The history department has been stirring up new ideas for courses as well as a series of lectures that would boost the overall presence of the history department at school.

New courses may be on the way for next year or, probably, later, including military history courses and leadership courses. Mr. Sharbel has proposed two military history courses: Origins of Western Warfare (Semester 1) and Modern Western Warfare (Semester 2). In these courses a student will enrich his perception of Western warfare by learning about the connection between climate, politics, economics, and culture of Western Civilization and how those relate to our current way of life. This course will use case study and seminar discussion to further enrich students with an understanding of Western Civilization.

The understanding of Western climate, politics, economics, and culture is then linked to the West's way of war. Origins of Western Warfare will study classical Greek warfare through Early Modern Era warfare. The second course, Modern Western Warfare, studies wars from the Napoleonic Era and will conclude with warfare in the 21st century.

In addition to the military history courses, another senior elective proposed by Mrs. Williams is Profiles in Leadership. This course will include a formal study of leadership as well as an opportunity for students to enhance their research and writing skills.

This course will be rigorous but rewarding, including a great deal of reading, writing, research, and self-reflection. While this course does not fit the criteria for those seniors wanting to slide their way through their last magnificent year at MBA, this course would be truly enlightening and worthwhile.

In other history department news, the history club is looking for new members, so for those of you that are fond of history, I encourage you to join the club. In addition, the history department is trying to boost student participation in contests and competitions, such as the Geography Bee. Dr. Bailey mentioned a possible test similar to our current National Latin Exam, that would allow for students to be recognized for outstanding achievement in history. While this is not confirmed, it is still a very likely possibility.

There are some upcoming events in the history department. Mr. Norton has organized a lecture series entitled *Band of Brothers*, which will begin on January 28th. On March 2nd, the department will have a very special guest visit the school. This guest will be Joe Wiegman, who specializes in doing interpretations of Teddy Roosevelt. He will also be in classrooms with many of you as he tours the school and will be open for questions.

Until next time, this concludes the news from the History Department.



Mrs. Williams and Mr. Sharbel smile for the camera.

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Seniors Think About Each Other... And Colleges

by
Fadi Pulous
News Editor

The senior class at MBA is counting down the days to a bitter sweet graduation in May, but the class has come together to a greater unity over the past four to six years. Before we graduate though, we want to make sure we leave an impression on MBA and especially want to make sure that you all knew what we've been doing since we've come back to school. So sit back, grab some prune juice, and prepare to hear some of the most exciting and unrealistic occurrences ever.

To begin this action-packed issue, the **editor-in-chief** of *The Bell Ringer* sent me an e-mail commenting on his attraction to my appearance. I don't really know what he's hinting at, but I'll take it as a compliment. **Nick Williams** also contributed with exciting news that isn't his own. It seems he's noticed that his fellow classmate **Jimmy Balser** has had trouble walking around campus because he's been hindered by an unknown malady. **Nick** said that the poor guy already didn't have any friends and that students on The Hill should do their best to help Jimmy "limpy" Balser around the campus.

Tom Corcoran didn't react well to my jest regarding the state semi-finalist boots and insists that I pay for them should they ever become a reality. Just know, Tom, when that day comes, the senior class will gladly buy you a nice pair of cowboy boots to get across the rough terrain on MBA's campus.

Barrett Jacques says he's going to visit a school in Nevada that has roughly 30 students that live in the wilderness to find themselves, and he insists that cow-milking is essential to the economy of this day and age.

Sam Page didn't have much to say by replying to my e-mail with a blank body text, but **Sam Page** does in fact still go to this school, despite any previous thoughts that he left. **Houston Oldham** has been under a rigorous training regimen with **Coach Cheevers**, everyone's favorite coach and general human being, and **Houston** asks for everyone to come out and support the soccer team when the time comes; this is our year!

Ian Preston has some happy news, as he also advertises the Ultimate Frisbee team and would like to say that he

will be attending Rhodes in Memphis next year, where he will be playing Ultimate. **Alex Martin** got into Emerson with fellow classmate **Will Holt**, and both are excited about finally getting in somewhere!

Surprise contributor **Nick Conception**, also known as **El Bandelero**, states that he'll be attending the University of Georgia next year. **Aaron Barrett** would also like to say that he'll be attending Vanderbilt University. Congratulations, Aaron, on this acceptance and reinforcing the old cliché that MBA truly is Momma's Boy Academy, as he yearns to stay close to home. **Zach Brickner** is getting back on track this year with a new "new year's resolution," about which you will personally have to ask him, and he also would like to give a shout-out to the Ultimate Frisbee team.

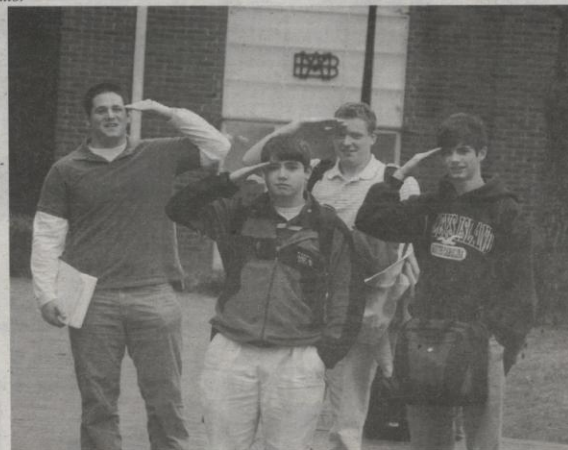
Michael P. Nunan has also declared that he will be changing his name to "white mike the cage-fighta." In this senseless move, **Nunan** has lost his dignity and, concurrently, most of his friends. *The Bell Ringer* still supports you, white mike! (The cage fighta can be omitted.)

Also, of all the seniors in the class, **Suhayl Mehio** has been planning Senior Prank Day ever since he started MBA four years ago and would like to announce he finally has a plan.

In a stunning confession, **Andy Lustig** has decided to dedicate this final semester to perfecting the Lendale White truffle shuffle touchdown dance in hopes of attracting several ladies at Prom this year. *The Bell Ringer* wishes Andy the best in actually finding a prom date this year!

Harding McCall's unusual contribution to the article this month was a poem that I can no longer find. **Taylor Land** would like to reiterate his love for William "Big Play/Seabreeze" Hayes and his undying love for Metallica. **Taylor** also has a tough time keeping conversations with girls.

Wyatt Redd's input should not go overlooked as he claims **Ian Preston** to be the anthropomorphic god of disc and should now be known only as **FRISBLOR MASTER OF ULTIMATE???** I don't know what's wrong with that boy. And, finally, **Will Holt's** comments should never go unmentioned, as he argues that he plans to go to Antarctica to pretend that he doesn't



Seniors salute the end of their final (hopefully) MBA exams.



Seniors try to look official at the King Society Breakfast.

exist. Thank you, Will, for doing *The Bell Ringer* a favor! You will be kinda missed.

So, there you have it, most of that can probably be constituted as inane drivel, but it's there for sheer enjoyment. Everyone urges the rest of the school to come out and

support the winter athletic events and the upcoming spring sports, while keeping in mind that the one-acts and a play production will roll out soon. Be sure to keep up with everything on campus and enjoy having us all around for a few more months, but only for a few more months!!

Write for The Bell Ringer!

The Staff still needs a few good writers.
If interested, please contact Mr. Gaither or Brian Swenson!

Public Service Announcement: All Seniors To Be Quarantined

by

Daniel Green

Staff Writer (not a slider)

It has arrived once again. The disease dubbed "senioritis" now roams the halls of Montgomery Bell Academy freely. The first signs of the disease can usually be seen shortly after a senior gets into his first college or at the completion of the first semester. Symptoms include but are not limited to decreased motivation, indifference to threats made by frustrated teachers, a lack of concern for grades and studying, increased frequency of sick days, regular raucous behavior, and a general flippant attitude about almost everything. Many have fallen to senioritis and are now content to coast through their last semester on The Hill.

When asked about the notorious slide's affect on them, seniors had varied reactions. Some were in denial of the obvious hold senioritis has on them, while others have embraced it. One senior remarked, "Well, I don't think I have senioritis, but I leave my backpack in my car from 3 p.m. to 8 a.m. I still have a college to apply to, and when homework is due tomorrow, that means I do it tomorrow." He denies his senior slide while talking plainly about his lack of commitment to homework and even finishing the college application process. Another senior added, while laughing, "Senior slide is awesome because I never have to bring my backpack home."

For others, though, the slide seems to bring nothing new to the school equa-

tion. As one senior stated simply, "To me the senior slide is finally being able to put a name to the lifestyle that has plagued me since seventh grade. Even the parents have come to accept the slide." Meanwhile, some have met resistance in their attempts to let the semester coast on by. "I'm trying really, really hard to slide, right?" said a bewildered senior, "But MBA just won't let me! Making me read things and write things, it's ridicu-

lous! I just want to chill and hassle the little kids in the quad all day."

Some seniors themselves are making the slide difficult for their own classmates. Even I was verbally assaulted by one fine student. "I think that your supporting the senior slide is despicable," he shouted, "and I for one think we should all be working harder."

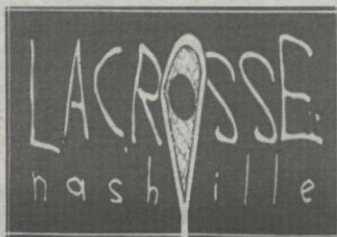
Our teachers and college counsel-

ors have a daunting and undesirable task--to try to motivate us into diligence and doing satisfactory work. Teachers threaten to crack down on the students for their indifference to school work, while the college counselors try to reason with us with reminders that colleges can revoke acceptances if final grades are sub-par, but nothing seems to be working. I guess that senioritis is like communism; MBA cannot eradicate it, they can only hope to contain it.



MBA students at the Martin Luther King, Jr. March.

Said Alvin Kim, "It was inspiring to be a part of the march. Martin Luther King did so much for anyone who feels like a minority in this country... MLK demonstrated the need to take action rather than letting wrongs pass by. It is important that we honor his teachings."



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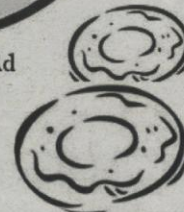
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Juniors Find Ways To Help And To Achieve

by Will Henry
Staff Writer

Winter break and the new school year have been very busy for the junior class. Stepping up their game as always, the juniors have amassed 877.5 services hours, which is 442 hours higher than the next class. With that in mind, it comes as no surprise that a large number of juniors were inducted into the King Society: **Matt Bracy, Kyle Brantley, Denzel Caldwell, Nathan Dewitt, Tee Griscom, Rob Higham, John Lowe, Michael Seitz, Ben Sutter, and Daniel Todd.**

On MLK Day, **Daniel White, Dylan Petraitis, Matt Bracy, John Andrews, Ryan Venable, Denzel Caldwell, Nathan Dewitt, Jonathan Golab, Joshua Liang, Wiley Hunt, Zach Sternberg, Alvin Kim,** and a few others represented MBA at the community MLK March that meandered from Pearl-Cohn High School to Jefferson St Baptist Church.

Athletically, the junior class has contributed a great deal to various successful seasons. **Tyler Paslick, Holden Mobley, Fitz Lassing, Brad Bars, Alex Apple, Michael Setiz, and John Lowe** have been holding it down on the basketball court, with some contributing more than others.

Chris Adkins recently placed 2nd in a regional climbing competition that qualified him for Nationals from February 12th-16th.

In wrestling, **Daniel Todd** placed 1st in the McCallie Invitational and in the Father Ryan Invitational during the winter break. **Jordan Stauffer** got 4th in his first ever wrestling tournament. **Daniel** may be the best in the state.

In recent track news, it is rumored that **Quinton Burks** has been beating **Wiley Hunt** and **Michael "Steve" Peters** in distance runs.

Morgan Cram had a very exciting long weekend over the MLK holiday. His grandfather on his mother's side came into town for his 70th birthday. Of his seven children, he suspected that only three of

them would be there for the celebration. One by one, each day, one of his grandfather's children came to surprise him, in a different and interesting way (popping out of a huge box, surprising him at lunch, etc). His aunt, who flew in all the way from Dubai, came as a complete shock.

With six out of the seven children there, the youngest son, who previously could not make the trip due to his work, decided to not be the only one who didn't show up to his father's birthday. **Morgan** gladly picked him up from the airport, unbeknownst to the other adults, and brought him to J. Alexanders to surprise the whole family. According to **Morgan**, in the lobby of the restaurant, there were, "tears, screaming, and laughter all at the same time."

Over the winter break, **Thomas Moore** spent time practicing his Latin verb conjugations so that he could fully take advantage of the final year of AP Latin Lyric.

When asked if he did anything fun or interesting over the break, **Brad Bars** responded: "Yeah, I went to McDonalds."

More busy than ever was **Jordan Herring**, who "...went to the countryside, went swimmin' in old man Johnson's pond, rode in jacked up trucks, did some 'frog giggin', sang to some country music, ran down the old widow's picket fence, and laid underneath the moonlight." Who wouldn't envy **Jordan's** life?!!

Corbin Williams is on exchange for three months at Eton College in England and sends his regards to his peers.

Ben Mecklenborg went to the Impending Doom, Born of Osiris, Unearth, and Emmure concert where **Mike Gedelman** and **Jack Murphy** were spotted.

With the Scholastic Art awards in, **Joshua Liang** took a gold and a silver medal in Mixed Media and Drawing respectively.

The juniors have been very busy and hope to keep up their great work.



Juniors receive their class rings in anticipation for their taking over from the current Seniors as school leaders.

Sophomores Show Wisdom And Foolishness

by
Andrew Powell
Staff Sophomore

School is school. Sophomores are sophomores. What more is there to say? Well, apparently, there is a lot to say about the MBA sophomore class at this point in the year. They have been busy over the past few weeks, both on and away from The Hill.

A big topic of discussion...anxiety?...fear?... is the sophomore research paper coming up in about a month. The project, which 10th-graders write in place of two themes, incorporates the reading of three books on a specified topic, extensive research about the connections among the books and their historical context, and then probably writing the majority of it the day before it's due. When asked about what books he read, of which the completed third one was due last Friday, an anonymous sophomore told his teacher, "Well, I haven't read any. But I'm planning on reading...wait... what's my topic again?" We all applaud his honesty, if not his alacrity. Another would like to add, "God bless Sparknotes!" Sounds like things are going well overall.

In other news, **Chris Goodrich** and **Ford Altenberg** were cast in MBA's *Metamorphosis* and HH's *Dearest Beloved*, respectively. Congratulations to both — these are big achievements!

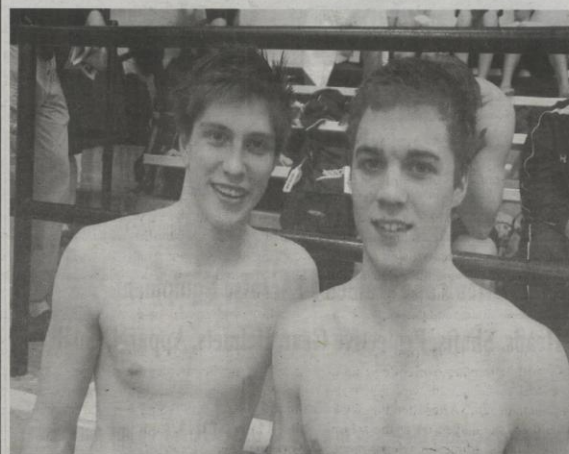
On a recent "epic mystery tour" run, **Ryan Hill** and **Michael Peters**, accompanied by **David Arteaga**, stopped by Centennial Park to throw rocks on the frozen pond. But, naturally, as anyone does when he meets a frozen pond, these fellows, three of MBA's finest, tried walking on it...and David fell through! Ryan said the next time

they go they will bring along a raft, "for school purposes, of course."

Another story receiving a lot of buzz is the following, as submitted by an anonymous observer: "**Colin Brannon** had a revelation: In 6th-period lunch, he said, 'they're serving fries now. Go get some.' And they were indeed serving fries. The same happened with chicken tenders in the same period." This food talk brings us to another tidbit, a quote overheard in 6th period lunch: "I've considered bulimia to make more room on chicken sandwich day." Haven't we all?!!

The JV basketball team maintained its undefeated season this past Friday, beating BA in an overtime nail-biter. And MBA's Los Banditos (Ultimate) compiled a 7-1 record this past weekend at a round robin tournament held here on campus, with the one squad's only loss coming from none other than the other MBA team.

Now, on to the big news — the front page material. Cov Pres and Westminster churchball teams faced off a few weeks ago, showcasing excellent play by Nick Kohler and Scott Gould. Westminster came out on top. But Covenant showed heart, rebounding from that tough loss to win a double-overtime thriller in dramatic come-from-behind fashion. To follow up this standout performance, Cov proceeded to lose its next game... 100-36 (not an exaggeration — the other team put up a hundred on a 40 min running clock!) Looks like it might be a long season for the "Christ Ballers".



Sophomore Chase Lovelace poses with Junior Shep Patterson at a recent swim meet.

The Future Of Classical Music In Nashville Is Bright

by
Alvin Kim
Staff Cellist

Classical music. To many, these two words denote a painfully boring spectacle in which generically old and vain people played Bach, Mozart or Beethoven. Despite these preconceptions of classical works, Nashville itself has experienced an incredible surge of support for the musical arts. Of course, none of this progression could be possible without the new Schermerhorn Center and its new director/conductor, Giancarlo Guerrero. I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Guerrero about his views of the world of classical music and its importance in Nashville.

Mr. Guerrero grew up in Costa Rica where he quickly joined the country's only orchestra. After realizing his calling to music in his senior year of high school, he attended college at Baylor University and continued on to receive his bachelor's degree in percussion. He later obtained his master's degree in conducting at Northwestern. Mr. Guerrero's education in music is extensive, as are most of the successful musicians of today.

In recent years, though, musical education in American schools has suffered from funding shortfalls and now is generally restricted to those who show a natural passion for the field. Classical music is often criticized simply because many lack the education to understand the content. So, are schools making music enough of a priority?

In the 1960s in American schools, music lessons were offered for free, and instruments were provided by the school. Now, administrators like New York's mayor Michael Bloomberg have tried to require the

teaching of the arts in grades 1-12. Still, this 2004 blueprint had one major flaw - these "requirements" were recommended, rather than required. In 2006, there was only one music teacher for every 1200 students in New York, and the \$67.5 million set aside for Project Arts was immediately absorbed by the schools, who could then distribute the money to whatever they deemed the neediest programs. Typically, it is cities like New York that have led the nation in educational reforms involving the arts, yet in current times, their administration has been unable to make strides in this area.

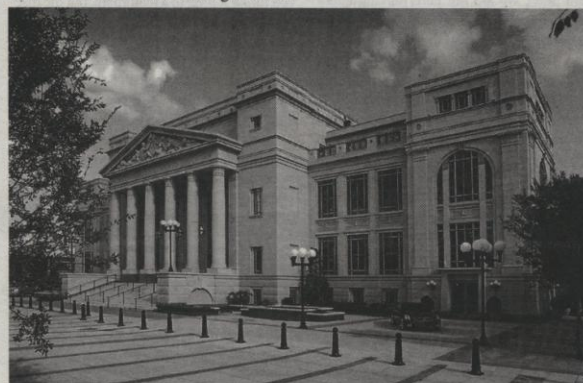
Despite these struggles in many large cities, Nashville has shown increased organization in the strengthening of musical education in public schools. The state government is launching an initiative known as "One Note, One Neighborhood", in which schools will greatly expand learning opportunities for students through master classes, professional development for teachers, and hands-on instruction for individual students, presented in partnership with the W.O. Smith Music School. The plan is only made possible through collaborations with the Nashville Symphony, but money, of course, is still an issue. The organization hopes to start its program in five years, but no official announcement has been made.

So it seems that although education in the arts has weakened in the last forty years, Nashville can lead the nation in its programs to strengthen music throughout the country. While the problem of music education is persistent, many attack music on a more personal level. It has been often

suggested that the other, more mainstream styles of music, such as hip hop, rap, and jazz, have in some way diluted or negatively affected the classical industry. Despite this argument, others like Guerrero suggest the opposite.

Mr. Guerrero feels that these other types of music have not hurt the classical industry. Rather, he believes that they have helped the classical world. He voiced his support for the mixing of genres with a sense that the Nashville community has come to appreciate all styles. The Schermerhorn Symphony's program of late has included collaborations with more mainstream artists like Ben Folds and Nickel Creek's Chris Thile. In contrast with Carnegie Hall's

48% cuts in budgets or the Met's forty-million dollar deficit and declining ticket sales, the Nashville Symphony has seen a dramatic increase in ticket sales from this year alone, while attracting world-renowned musicians such as Yo Yo Ma, Hilary Hahn and Emmanuel Ax. Groups like the New York Philharmonic have talked of facing a temporary end to business, and the Chicago Symphony has put out only one CD in the last 15 years. Perhaps now, finally, Nashville can own up to its name as Music City, USA and inspire the return of commercialized classical music. With the optimistic leadership of Giancarlo and the education reforms of this city, anything seems possible.



Nashville's beautiful Schermerhorn Symphony Center

Mrs. Maddux: The New Face of College Counseling

By
Jack Hallemann
Staff Writer

This past summer Ms. Maddux began her first year at MBA, replacing Mr. Giffen as head of the college counseling department. While the seniors have come to know and appreciate Ms. Maddux for all the hard work she does, the rest of the school may not have been able to interact with her as much because of her busy schedule. Because of this, I decided to meet with Ms. Maddux to find out more about her and her impressions of MBA so far.

While this is the first year Ms. Maddux will be in charge of college counseling at MBA, she is in no way new to the department in general. After attending Dickinson college, she stayed on at the school and worked in the admissions department.

Next she worked at The Webb School in Bell Buckle and then went on to head the college counseling department at Harpeth Hall. After returning to her home

town of Pittsburg to work at Shady Side Academy for a few years, she has come back to Tennessee to head the college counseling department at MBA.

Because she had worked at Harpeth Hall and lived in Nashville, the transition to working at MBA was an easy one for her. She remarked about how welcoming and accommodating the MBA staff and faculty have been while she grew accustomed to the system.

When I asked about the parents at MBA and her perception of them, she replied that they had been very helpful, stating, "I like parents." She was also excited about how MBA encourages parents to work together, as a team, with the college counselors and students.

While MBA as an institution is for the most part loathe to change, Ms. Maddux did have some improvements that she hoped

to implement to make the college admissions process go more smoothly. She hopes to interact more with juniors in the coming years to get them more involved at an earlier time so that they're better prepared when they are seniors. She also hopes to create a more detailed schedule for the college application process, focusing specifically on college essays, to avoid the pressure that accompanies last minute work. She seemed impressed with the spread of colleges to which MBA boys applied, and she hopes to encourage this trend in the future as well.

The seniors are very grateful with all the hard work Ms. Maddux did for them this year, describing her as thorough and responsive. When describing the college admission's process, Ms Maddux articulated, "When applying to college, there's no hard and fast set of rules to follow; it's not a science, it's an art."



Mrs. Maddux has helped make Matt Wieck, having been accepted by Notre Dame, happy.

Ian Preston Talks With *The Bell Ringer* About Ultimate Frisbee

by
Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Bell Ringer: What aspect of the game is most exciting?

Ian Preston: "Laying out is everyone's favorite. It takes extreme athleticism, and you are praised by everyone, even if you don't catch it."

BR: Do you think this year's Ultimate team has a good chance of bringing home MBA's first state championship?

I.P.: "Yes...but then we have had a good chance the last three years, also."

BR: When did you first start playing Ultimate?

I.P.: "I had never heard of, much less played, Ultimate until high school. Which reminds me, this sport doesn't get any of the credit it deserves. For example, it's snowing right now! We are out here playing every day, no matter what the conditions. Ultimate is the only winter sport that's outside."

BR: What are MBA's best finishes since you have been here?

I.P.: "We finished 2nd in the State Tournament last year, losing to Ooltewah. We actually play our best against the tough teams."

BR: What is your favorite throw?

I.P.: "Probably the deep cut flick, which is a huck. You gather up all your strength and nail it down field. It's extra in-

credible if it's a lay-out catch. It's so rewarding, especially if it's in the end zone."

BR: What is the best Ultimate play?

I.P.: "Nintendo DS. It's our secret play. It stands for the dump swing, which has many names, like Pokémon and then a version: Yellow, Ruby, Silver... It means that you dump swing the disc into the middle of the field."

BR: Do you plan on playing Ultimate in college?

I.P.: "Yes. At Rhodes College on their team called the Ultimate Road Kill."

BR: What is the ultimate Ultimate play?

I.P.: "Any long throw followed by a lay-out catch is going to be ultimate. Also, if you throw it long to a teammate, but the disc is heading out of bounds, you can jump out of bounds and catch it in the air and throw it back in to another teammate before you touch the ground. If he catches it, it counts. I've never actually witnessed one, just seen it on YouTube."

BR: Were you impressed with Vandy's team (MBA played Vandy in a close game on MLK Day)?

I.P.: "Yes. I thought they were good. If we had had all our players, we could have done a little better. I think we learned to not

ever give up on your man. With guys that big, you have to anticipate things and make a good guess of where the disc is going."

BR: Who is MBA's toughest competition in terms of high schools?

I.P.: "Ooltewah. They are the defending state champs. It's not USN anymore. We are the best in Nashville."

BR: Is Ultimate in your opinion the

fastest growing sport on the face of the planet?

I.P.: "It's definitely gotten a lot of recognition, and it's on people's minds. Colleges have picked it up, and it's now trickled into high school. I'm convinced it will be a varsity sport in the near future. It really should be now."

Bowling Team Places 2nd In The Regionals

by
Denney Sandwith
Staff Writer

Yes, the 2008-2009 MBA Bowling season is still going on. The season, which began in September, is sadly beginning to wrap up, as the State Tournament begins Friday, January 30 in Smyrna, Tennessee.

The team has kept focus throughout the long season as evidenced by their 2nd Place finish in the TSSAA Middle/East Regional Tournament. The tournament held a strong field that did not even include the defending Division II State Tournament champions JPIL.

The Big Red began the tournament by beating a McCallie team which had beaten the Big Red the last time they matched up, in the 2007 State Tournament, in a tight match.

This win set up the Big Red for a match-up against fierce rivals BGA for 1st place in the Region. After another tight match, which the Big Red narrowly lost, the table was set for a re-match against McCal-

lie for a consolation match: 2nd place for the winner and 3rd place for the loser.

Said Captain Will Andrews, "We have had our ups and downs this season, but it looks as if we are at the top of our game as a team right now."

This match was played using a format new to both teams, called the Baker-Style. It is almost equivalent to a hockey shootout to settle a tie. In a best of three series, though, the Big Red proved victorious and finished 2nd place in the Middle/East Region. This sets MBA up for the team State Tournament, as well as for state Individuals, for which Logan "Golden Arm" Lechleiter was the only member of the team to qualify.

The Big Red Bowlers have a great shot to win it all for the first time in team history, so ask your teachers to let you leave school early, drive out to Smyrna, and eat some chili-cheese dogs while supporting the Big Red!



The fit studs that are the MBA Varsity Bowling squad, led by Cdr. Pete "Kingpin" Carr.

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Coach Kevin Anglin Wants Players Who Believe They Can Win

by
Tom Markham
Staff Writer

The MBA basketball team has been riding an unprecedented wave of success this year. Even with a limited number of seniors, the team has managed an 13-4 record thus far. I talked with head coach Kevin Anglin about this recent success, asking him how the team has managed to maintain its consistency despite roadblocks that every team faces in a season.

Coach Anglin played basketball himself in college at Vanderbilt University, a major SEC program. He says that this experience at a high-intensity level of basketball gives him coaching credibility in the eyes of his players and helps show the players that the fundamentals which the team practices daily are the same at any level of basketball. "Plus," coach Anglin jokingly added, "I can still take some of my players."

As a coach, he emphasizes five main points to his players: "Play hard, play smart, play together, play with class, and play to win. We always come back to these

five points," he remarked. However, having a great basketball team does not come easy. Anglin commented that the hardest part about coaching high school basketball is that a coach has to be "a jack of all trades." He says that the coaching staff is not only in charge of game-day coaching, but also driving team buses, doing the team laundry, scouting opponents, and, in coach Anglin's case, being a full-time teacher on top of all these demands. "There are new challenges for every team," he noted, "and this year's challenge is taking a group of good players with high expectations and getting them to focus every day on the ultimate goal, winning a championship."

When asked about continuing the team's success, coach Anglin said that the team must "continue to get better." He observes that just because the team has started out well, it does not assure them future success.

Clearly, however, this team is

different. I asked if the team's success was due to any superstitions or pre-game rituals within the team, and coach Anglin enigmatically replied, "We don't have any team rituals, but I can't speak for the individual players." Superstition aside, there is a certain resilience that appears among the players in almost every game, and coach Anglin attributes this resilience to the 11th-grade players, who make up a large portion of the varsity team. He says that this junior class has had a very successful history in its MBA basketball career and thus has an expectation to win. This self-confidence, he says, carries over to the rest of the team and makes the team believe it is going to win.

Indeed, the varsity team has had multiple close games in which it somehow finds a way to triumph. A clear example of this will to win is the overtime victory over powerhouse Culleoka. Coach Anglin says that in his opinion, though, the highlight of the season thus far has been the holiday

tournament at Beech High School, in which the Big Red won three games, two of which came down to the wire.

Coach Anglin says that the entire coaching staff is extremely pleased with the team's performance up to this point, but he also stresses that the team must stay focused. "The team is in a very good position to achieve its goals," he says, "but there's still a lot left to go."

With a tough second half of the season still remaining, including the ever-important region games against such tough opponents as Brentwood Academy and Ensworth, coach Anglin is staying optimistic. While he did not make any specific predictions on the rest of the season, coach Anglin did remark that, "if you have a team of players who think they'll win, they have a chance."

Hopefully this will-to-win mentality will continue to carry the Big Red basketball team into postseason success.

The Bell Ringer Lists Five Keys To Success For MBA Basketball

by
Alex Apple
Sports Editor

1. Concentration and Sustained Effort-MBA is 13-4 on the year. However, two of those losses came in two winnable games where the team never played to its potential. Against Baylor and BGA, the team lost due to a lack of execution and several mental breakdowns. In the first game of the year, MBA lost at BGA in a game that saw the Big Red flat in the first half, barely scoring over 10 points. MBA never executed but allowed BGA's good players to control the game. The Baylor game was similar, where three players for Baylor accounted for ninety percent of their points. However, on nights when the team is focused and executes, MBA beat Father Ryan, Culleoka, and almost beat a very good Germantown team from Memphis.

2. Play to their strengths-MBA has plenty of talent to compete with any team every time they take the floor. A different player could step up and lead the team each night in scoring. MBA has strong, more athletic big men than most teams, as well as several guards who can score from the perimeter.

3. Defend for 32 minutes-In several games this year, MBA has roared out to big leads but has allowed some teams to stick around, only to turn it on in the second half

and open the game up again. Once the Big Red is able to sustain a defensive effort as the team is capable of, they will start to blow out less talented teams and give themselves great chances to win big games.

4. Patience on Offense-MBA is at its best offensively when the team is moving the ball and making the defense constantly work by putting pressure on them with drives and by using an inside-out approach. Coach Kevin Anglin has constantly stressed having patience to get a great shot instead of just being lazy for a decent one. He encourages making the extra pass to turn a good shot into a great shot.

5. Unselfishness-In order for the team to achieve their ultimate goal of winning a state championship, it is extremely important that each player play his best each and every night. Once people are playing hard in order to not let their teammates down and in order to do anything to help the team win, the team will experience great success. After having jumped out to a great start it is important that each player stay focused, continue to improve, and continue to work toward his ultimate goal. As the team continues to improve, its potential is limitless, with a state championship being a real possibility.



MBA sets up a play versus McCallie.



An MBA player shoots a free throw against Dickson.

MBA Statistics Team Leads The City

by
Palmer Campbell
Staff Writer

MBA's squad of sterling statistics students currently has the lead for the city championship, an honor it has held for three years now. Two contests remain in the competition.

Four contests are held during the school year, with the city championship going to the team with the highest total from these contests.

Members of the team are not a lock for the entire year. The Stat Stars are chosen for the team depending on which students in the class have the highest cumulative average at the time of the meet. Also taken into account are conflicts, such as debate or athletics.

The team representing MBA in the third city meet, in February, will be composed of Stephen Bedard, Connor Caldwell, Carter Callaway, Jack Halleman, Robert McNeilly, Paul Van Pernis, and Max Werthan.

In the second meet, in December, Stephen Bedard won first place in Nashville, Robert McNeilly 2nd, Max Werthan 3rd, and Connor Caldwell was 5th. The team finished in first place.

The team also finished first in the first meet of the year, back in November. Carter Callaway ended in 2nd place then, with Paul Van Pernis and Andrew Powell tied for third.

In these meets the toughest competition comes from the expected sources: USN, Hume-Fogg, MLK, Ensworth, Ravenwood, and Brentwood High. To overcome these very capable rivals Dr. Shackleford has evidently provided great teaching and coaching to some very bright young students.

The fourth (and last) city meet will be in early March, with a state competition in April. "The state meet," reports Dr. Shackleford, "will be difficult and comprehensive." He goes on to say that a student's score will count for both a region (middle Tennessee) ranking and the state ranking.

Dr. Shackleford offered *The Bell Ringer* and its readers a sample statistics problem. This one came from the 2008 state exam:

Tennessee license plates have three English letters followed by three one-digit numbers from {0, 1, ..., 9}. If there are twenty three-letter words and 10 three-digit numbers that cannot be used on any plate, how many different license plates can be made?

A. 17,575,000 (answer on p.16)

B. 17,380,240

C. 17,380,440

D. 11,232,000

E. 11,231,970

Stats for MBA Winter Sports Teams

(as of 1/21/08)

by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Basketball

- Record- (13-4) (4-2)

- 3rd Place in Beech Holiday Tournament

- 29th in State according to maxpreps.com

- 4th in Conference Standings behind Ensworth, Baylor, and BA

Avg. Points

1. Holden Mobley - 15.1

2. Brad Bars - 8.6

3. Michael Seitz - 7.3

Avg. Rebounds

1. Brad Bars - 4.2

2. Luke Colbert - 3.4

T-3 - Holden Mobley - 3.1

T-3 - Michael Seitz - 3.1

Assists/Game

1. Tyler Paslick - 3.0

2. Holden Mobley - 2.4

3. Spencer Wise - 1.0

Field Goal %

1. Brad Bars - 64.8%

2. Holden Mobley - 53.7%

3. Luke Colbert - 52.5%

3 Point %

1. Holden Mobley - 42.1%

2. Spencer Wise - 30.3%

3. Alex Apple - 29.2%

Free Throw %

1. Holden Mobley - 80.9%

2. Austin Blackwell - 76.9%

3. Tyler Paslick - 75.0%

Turnovers

1. Holden Mobley - 32

2. Spencer Wise - 26

3. Tyler Paslick - 24

Steals

1. Tyler Paslick - 29

2. Michael Seitz - 12

T-3 Brad Bars - 11

T-3 Spencer Wise - 11

T-3 Holden Mobley - 11

T-3 Austin Blackwell - 11

Blocks

1. Brad Bars - 6

2. Luke Colbert - 4

3. Tyler Paslick - 3

Hockey

- Regular Season Record- (11-6) - 20 points

- 6th in GNASH Gold Regular Season Standings

Goals

1. Eddie Lang IV - 17

2. Crawford Standard Jr. - 12

3. David Dalton - 10

Assists

1. Robinson Hunt - 16

2. David Dalton - 15

3. Eddie Lang IV - 13

Points

1. Eddie Lang IV - 30

2. David Dalton - 25

3. Robinson Hunt - 23

Penalty Minutes

1. Robinson Hunt - 30

2. Crawford Standard Jr. - 28

3. Bailey Brandon - 24

Goals Against Average

1. Alex Austin - 2.20

2. Nick Bessette - 3.33

Save %

1. Alex Austin - 0.85

2. Nick Bessette - 0.83

Wrestling

- 14-3 in Dual Meets

- McCallie Invitational-

9th; Father Ryan Invitational - 5th; Briarcrest Duals - 3rd

Record

1. Daniel Todd (25-0)

2. Max Jarrell (24-4)

3. Rylan Browner (20-4)

4. John Floyd (23-5)

Pins

T-1 Rylan Browner - 14

T-1 John Floyd - 14

T-1 Max Jarrell - 14

4. Daniel Todd - 9

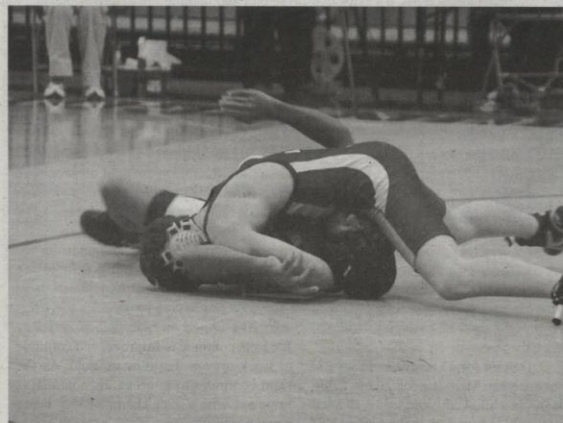
Tech Falls

1. Daniel Todd - 4

Major Decisions

1. Daniel Todd - 7

2. John Floyd - 4



MBA dominates yet another wrestling match.

Royal Thai: A Palate Meets The Mongol Horde A Restaurant Review

by
Sully Mehio & Wyatt Redd

Staff Writers

The Bell Ringer's residing food critics, not Jimmy and Will, the other two, who have yet to publish an article critiquing food, have been trying the most exotic food they can find and have finally submitted their findings in an article that's as chock-full of adjectives and descriptive phrases as the food is of flavor.

Sully and Wyatt make a great food critic team; Sully brings his interest in food and culinary knowledge, and Wyatt contributes with poetic descriptions of the way stuff tastes, as well as illogical and irrelevant introductory sections.

In the first of these installments, we found a restaurant so good you will eat until you gain massive amounts of weight and they have to blow open a hole in the wall to remove you - it happened to my uncle, Ian Preston. The restaurant is Royal Thai.

This part was written by Wyatt, but in the interest of making it sync with Sully's contribution (i.e. the good parts) we will now shift to the first person plural. So it started like this: we walked into a sophisticated, quiet atmosphere and took a seat in some *really* comfortable booths. We kid you not - those seats are nice. It's like sitting on a cloud made from faux leather. Sully started off with Thai iced tea, an exotic drink that's brown at the bottom, orange in the middle,

and white at the top. It has a really smooth, creamy taste that we can't completely put into words - this is a must-have.

The appetizers were rather interesting - for example, one of the dishes was traditionally served only to royal families, which is weird because it was just a little chicken pot pie thing that was pretty bland. There was also a Curry-Chicken Satay Kabob with fried rice and peanut sauce that was like having your tongue caressed by the angels of awesome tastiness. However, we strongly suggest getting their soups for starters - Wyatt ordered a soup made from chicken, coconut milk, sautéed shiitake mushrooms, tomato, lemon, juice, basil, and several other ingredients that made it creamy, yet tangy, and better than the taste of the first squirrel of the season.

There are probably about 50 main courses to choose from - variety is definitely not a problem here. A red curry bowl with duck, pineapple, mushrooms, and tomatoes; an oriental chicken-rice dish served in a hollowed-out pineapple; a whole red snapper, fried with red curry sauce and chili peppers. These are just a few of Royal Thai's incredible dishes you can't find anywhere else (except maybe in Thailand, or another Thai restaurant that has them, or maybe if you had a Thai friend, or even if you your-

self are Thai and you eat that kind of stuff at home).

We decided on mixed seafood grills, (squid, scallops, shrimp, and crab stir-fried with chili peppers) served over fried rice. Now, at Royal Thai, you can order your dishes in four levels of spice: mild, medium, hot, and Native Thai, which is hotter than a brick stove. Wyatt, who carries a bottle of hot sauce in his car to put on just about everything he eats, elected to get the Native Thai. He described the experience as follows: "It's a primordial force, not a flavor; an unbridled wrath of nature and Thai seasoning. For behold, ye mortals, it strikes like the Mongol horde leveling the walls of the metaphorical cities of your taste buds,

taking them violently, sacking them, putting the inhabitants to the sword, and burning down the remains as it departs." He heartily recommends this experience. Yes, try it, we can promise you won't forget it.

We then finished off the meal with some fried banana spring rolls and homemade coconut ice cream (that one is the best). We paid the bills, which were actually not too bad - the main courses are quite affordable, being anywhere between ten dollars at the least and twenty-five at most.

So, then we walked out of Royal Thai, full and fulfilled, and now we're passing the word on to you. You HAVE to eat at this place... prepare to get sacked.



Excellent curried chicken kabobs

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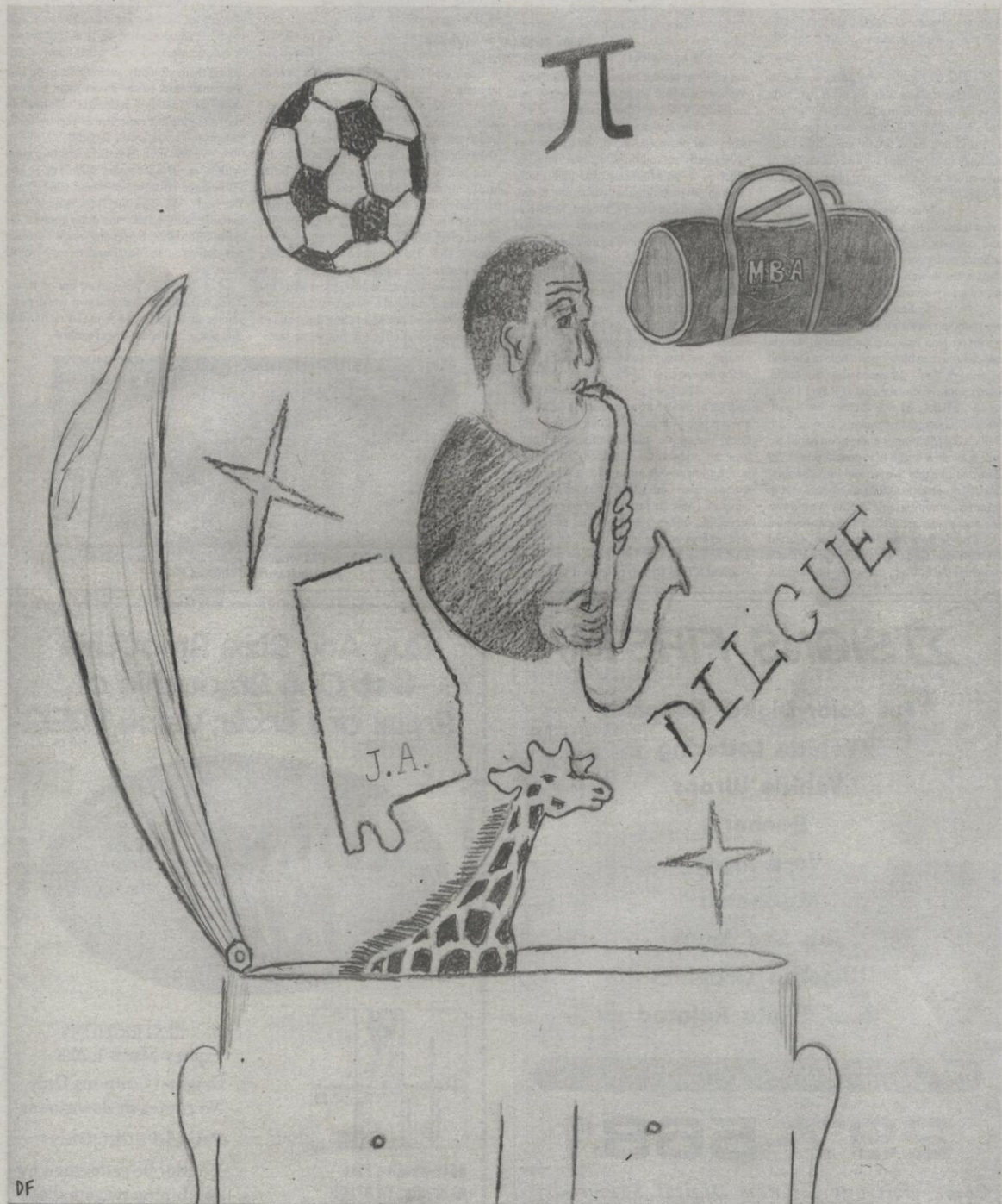


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Answer to Stats question: C.